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PAPR reduction

Field of the invention

5 This invention pertains to the area of wireless radio access technology. More particular, the present invention concerns methods and systems using orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM), such as Wireless LANs (WLAN).

Background of the invention

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A well-known problem in OFDM modulation is high PAPR (Peak to Average Power Ratio) values. High PAPR values occur since it is not possible to control the power level for each symbol when constructing the OFDM (Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplex) waveform.

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The optimal situation for error free transmission is to have a stable constant PAPR level throughout the transmission of individual packets, in order for the power amplifier (PA) to work well. The PA is typically linear only over a limited range in power level, and thus high fluctuations in PAPR level causes the PA to behave non-linearly. Non-linearity of the PA is devastating for the Bit error rate (BER)/ Packet error rate (PER) of QAM (Quadrature Amplitude Modulation)-signalling.

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There are well known solutions to the classical problem of excessively high PAPR levels, namely to re-code the data, re-scramble the data or to insert extra data bits that "levels out" the original data and creates a more favourable PAPR level. However, there are drawbacks to these solutions.

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Typically, the known solutions are computational intensive, introduce delays, or introduce extra bits that decrease the data rate. There are no known algorithms how to re-code or introduce "compensation-bits" and thus trial-and-error must be used.

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The current standard for WLAN IEEE802.11 is about to gain success in being wide spread to customers with the purpose of replacing wired Ethernet LANs with wireless access. The current deployed standard 802.11b, is using the 2.4 GHZ unlicensed band. It is forecasted that if the current rate of deployment continues, the spectrum in the 2.4 GHz band will soon be insufficient and that a migration to 5 GHz and 802.11a will take

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place. The 802.11a specification uses OFDM signalling at the PHY (physical) layer. The OFDM modulated 802.11a PHY layer is sensitive to fluctuations in PAPR level.

5 Recently, a IEEE 802.16 Study Group on Mobile Broadband Wireless Access (MBWA) IEEE 802.16, has addressed radio access for stations in fast moving vehicles with speeds up to 200 mph. However, it is not possible to use the 802.11a physical (PHY) layer for mobile stations moving at a high speed and being exposed to adverse signal-ling conditions.

10 The MBWA requires pilot symbols evenly distributed - at a certain pilot-to-data ratio, PDR - throughout a packet in order for the frequency tracking and channel estimation mechanism to function for fast moving stations.

15 Summary of the invention

It is a first object of the invention to set forth a method for decreasing the level of fluctuation of the PAPR level but without causing a data rate penalty.

20 This object has been achieved by the subject matter set forth by claim 1.

It is a further object to set forth a method of transmission that can easily be implemented in a transmitter, the method providing very low delay.

25 This object has been accomplished by the subject matter of claim 2.

It is a further object to set forth a method, which allows for a low PDR and thus a high throughput, but still providing a robust detection.

30 This object has been accomplished by the subject matter of claim 3.

It is a further object to set forth a transmitter providing robust data transmission and low PAPR values.

35 This object has been achieved by the subject matter of claim 9.

It is a further object to set forth a transmitter, which moreover is cost effective and provides low delay.

This object has been achieved by the subject matter of claim 10.

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It is a further object to set forth a receiver allowing PAPR efficient transmission to be accomplished.

This object has been achieved by the subject matter of claim 12.

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Further advantages will appear from the following detailed description of the invention.

Brief description of the drawings

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Fig. 1 shows a typical transmitter,

fig. 2 shows a typical receiver,

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fig. 3 shows an OFDM modulation scheme,

fig. 4 discloses a transmitter according to a first embodiment of the invention,

fig. 5 discloses a transmitter according to a second embodiment of the invention,

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fig. 6 discloses a receiver according to the first and second embodiment of the invention,

fig. 7 shows pilot configurations according to a first embodiment of the invention,

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fig. 8 is a schematic illustration of the PAPR level for two alternative pilot configurations,

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fig. 9 shows a format for transmitted / received frames according to a first embodiment of the invention,

fig. 10 relates to the calculation of pilot configurations according to the first embodiment of the invention,

fig. 11 shows pilot configurations according to a second embodiment of the invention,
5 and

fig. 12 shows pilot configurations according to a further embodiment of the invention

10 Description of preferred embodiments of the invention

In figure 1, a conventional transmitter has been shown, comprising a buffer stage 1 for intermediately storing incoming payload data arranged in frames to be transmitted. The transmitter comprises a mapping stage (2) in which the payload data is mapped into
15 complex symbols being defined by real, I, and complex, Q, components using for instance a BPSK or QAM modulation scheme. The transmitter moreover comprises a pilot insertion stage for interspersing appropriate pilot symbols in the stream of symbols carrying the payload data; an Inverse Fast Fourier Transform stage (IFFT) for mapping the BPSK or QAM modulated symbols onto respective sub-carriers and subsequently
20 transforming the frequency domain signals to a time domain signal; a cyclic prefix (CP) insertion stage (5) providing a cyclic addition of the signal for facilitating suppression of multipath effects in the receiver stage; a baseband filter 6 for out-of-band suppression; a digital to analogue converter (DAC) (7); and a radio frequency transmit stage (RF TX) (8) for up-converting and amplifying the baseband signal to a high frequency transmit signal.

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In fig. 2, a conventional receiver has been shown comprising a receive amplification input stage RF RX 12 an analogue to digital conversion stage (ADC) 13 for converting the high frequency signal to a baseband signal; a baseband filter stage 14; a cyclic prefix removal stage 15; a frequency offset compensator 16 a Fast Fourier Transform stage 17
30 for transforming the baseband signal to frequency domain signals relating to the individual sub-channels. The receiver moreover comprises a demodulation stage 18 for decoding the information (BPSK/ QAM) of the individual frequency domain signals back into bit estimates; using a channel estimation signal output from a channel estimator stage 21. Finally, a decoding stage 19 decodes the received signal into the original data
35 frame format.

In fig. 3, the frequency domain signal being output from the inverse fast Fourier transmission stage 4 of the conventional transmitter of fig. 1 has been shown. As shown, the spectrum is divided into a plurality of orthogonal carrier channels, comprising a number of payload data channels PL and four pilot signals P1 - P4. Similarly to the IEEE 802.11a standard, there may be 48 payload carrier channels and 4 pilot channels whereby the payload signals may be Quadrature Amplitude Modulated (QAM or any higher order of QAM modulation (n-QAM)) while the pilot signals may be binary phase shift keyed (BPSK).

First embodiment of transmitter

In fig. 4, a block diagram of the transmitter according to a first preferred embodiment of the invention has been shown. It should be understood that stages 6, 7 and 8 are the same as those shown with regard to fig. 1. According to the invention - periods of data frames are intermittently split by splitter 21 into identical units 25 and 26.

Having regard to unit 25, the data is stored in buffer 10, wherefrom data is read out in a predetermined order into mapper 20 from which data is subsequently being provided in parallel to a plurality a pilot insertion stages 3_1, 3_2 ... 3_n.

In each respective pilot insertion stage, a predetermined configuration of pilot signals, PC, is applied to the various predetermined sub-carriers P1 - P4. The configurations in each stage shall be different from one another. The individual pilot symbols, on the other hand, may be chosen arbitrarily as long as the configurations are unique. The payload data channels may be the same as shown in fig. 3.

In fig. 7, four exemplary BPSK pilot configurations being designated 00, 01, 10 and 11 have been shown for pilot channels P1 - P4. Each pilot configuration is being inserted in a respective pilot insertion stage, such that stage 3_1 makes use of pilot configuration 00; stage 3_2 makes use of pilot configuration 01 and so forth. For instance in the configuration 00, the first pilot P1 = -1, the second pilot P2 = 1; P3 = 1 and P4 = -1.

As appears, each respective signal from the pilot insertion stage 3_1 - 3_n is subsequently processed in respective control word insertion stages 5_1 to 5_n, whose function

shall be described later and to IFFT stages 4_1 - 4_n such that respective frequency domain signals are provided.

5 The insertion of a given pilot configuration in the stream of payload data will give rise to a specific output signal from the respective Inverse Fast Fourier Transmission stage.

In fig. 8, a first schematic output signal C1 corresponding e.g. to the configuration 01 being associated with a first PAPR value PAPR_1 and a second schematic output signal C2 corresponding e.g. to the configuration 10 being associated with a second PAPR value PAPR_2 have been illustrated.

As appears, the PAPR values differ because of the variations in the pilot configurations.

15 According to the present invention, the PAPR evaluation and pilot decision stage 13 carries out an evaluation of the PAPR values as provided by the respective IFFT stages. 4_1 - 4_n and chooses the pilot configuration, which is associated with the lowest value and stores results temporarily.

20 The idea here is that from a PAPR point of view it is advantageous to substitute fewer sub-carriers more often in order to obtain a given pilot-to-data ratio (PDR). If there is more than one pilot configuration that can be chosen, it is possible to choose the configuration that minimises the PAPR. From the receivers point-of-view it is not important which pilot configuration is chosen, only that it is known.

25 Parallel to the pilot insertion stages 3_1 - 3-n, the delay stage 9 stores a predetermined number of payload data frames, each frame comprising the payload data, which is to be transferred over the payload channels.

30 Internally in the PAPR measurement and pilot decision device 13, the data frames comprising the id+ portion are intermediately stored. When all frames are processed as indicated at time t5 in fig. 10, the chosen pilots and control words are inserted in frames to be transmitted in correct order in step 10 and step 11, respectively.

35 There are two methods to let the receiver know the specific bit pattern of the pilot configuration: Either specific information of which pilot configuration is to be used is sig-

nalled in advance by the transmitter or such information is derived directly from the pilot configuration by the receiver.

5 According to the first embodiment of the invention, information about the chosen pilot configuration is transmitted in advance. This information denoted control data is inserted on one predetermined payload channel, PL, in stage 11 and stages 5_1 - 5_n of fig. 4.

10 In fig. 9, the frame format of received data has been shown for incoming frames B_{n-1} to B_{n+p+1} . One part of the frame $Id+$, as coded on one of the data payload carriers, is a control word that indicates which pilot configuration, PC, will be used in a subsequent frame or in a frame of any predetermined subsequent order number.

15 By way of illustration, the other portion of the frame, PL, contain data, which has been coded according to a respective pilot configuration.

20 In fig. 10, an exemplary illustration of a given stream of data frames has been shown. Stages 9, 10, 11 and 13 are performing calculations according to a certain frame period FP. In fig. 10, the frame period is, by way of example, set to six frames. The processing of PAPR detection and evaluation in stage 13 is initially performed on frame B_{n+5} (or B_{n+p}) at time t_1 . However, before the PAPR evaluation is carried out, a predetermined default pilot configuration is inserted as control word ($id+$). In the present example, the pilot configuration designated by 01 is inserted. Hence, a given pilot configuration is estimated for frame B_{n+5} . This information is coded as control word on the preceding frame B_{n+4} via control word insertion stages 5_1 - 5_n and 11. Since now one of the
25 payload channels are coded with a control word $id+$, the remaining payload data of frame B_{n+4} must be PAPR evaluated with respect to the inserted control word. At time t_2 this evaluation is carried out, and by way of example pilot configuration 11 is found to optimise PAPR value.

30 Hence, the transmitter processes the buffered frames in opposite order to the incoming frames. When frame B_n is reached at time t_5 , a default pilot configuration, dft , is used, such that synchronicity can be obtained for a subsequent frame period, FP.

35 It appears that every 6'th frame word will not be optimised with regard to PAPR. Hence, a compromise will have to be made between processing delay and PAPR value as determined by the frame period.

Returning now to fig 4, the optimised pilot signal is inserted on a given frame B in stage 10, while in stage 11, the control word $id+$ as given by the evaluation unit 9 is inserted on one of the payload channels PL enabling subsequent detection.

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As mentioned above, the other unit 26 carries out the same processes as described above on a subsequent period of frame and in this manner, units 25 and 26 work intermittently and secure that PAPR optimised frames are being transmitted. It is noted that the transmission involves a certain delay mainly depending on the frame period FP.

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It is noted that many variations exist as to the number of frames being buffered or to which particular frame of a subsequent given order number the control word is associated.

15 First embodiment of receiver

In fig. 6, first and second embodiments of the receiver according to the invention have been shown. According to the first embodiment of the receiver according to the invention, which is meant for operation together with the transmitter according to the first embodiment, a control word extraction stage 23 is provided (According to a second embodiment of the receiver, the above control word extraction stage 24 is replaced with a pilot extraction stage 23).

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The control word extraction stage 24 extracts the control word, $id+$, from the output of the demodulator 18. The pilot reference generator 25 transforms the pilot configuration information into the corresponding BPSK symbols for each pilot sub-carrier, e.g. according to the control information as set out in the table of fig. 7.

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From signals generated by the pilot reference generator above, a respective frequency reference signal, which is necessary for the frequency estimation stage 17 and a respective channel reference signal for the channel estimation stage 21, are provided, such that correct decoding can be performed at stage 19.

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Second embodiment of transmitter

According to a further embodiment of the invention, the pilot configurations are formed as block codes, that is, codes, which even if exposed to a certain amount of changes to individual bits in the block or pilot configuration, will allow for correct interpretation. In fig. 5, a transmitter for the second embodiment has been shown.

If the sub-set of allowed pilots to the set of possible pilots is sufficiently small, i.e. the Hamming distance between the pilots are large enough, the receiver can determine which pilot was transmitted even in the case that some bit errors should occur in the pilot configuration. In this way, there is no need to signal in advance which pilot symbol that is used.

As above, the transmitter calculates the PAPR for each of the pilot configurations and transmits the best one. If it is specified that only specific block codes are allowed for transmission, it is possible to determine in the receiver which code was transmitted even in the presence of errors. If more pilot sub-carriers are used per OFDM symbol, it is possible to use longer codes with better error correcting abilities.

Fig. 11 relates to the transmitter of fig. 5 wherein only two pilot configurations are used, and hence only one out of two PAPR values can be chosen for optimisation. The code of fig. 11 is a simple repetition code, which has an error correcting capability of 2.

The number of pilots can also be increased such that the error coding capability increases and the PAPR minimisation capability increases, although at the cost of an increased overhead. Fig. 12 is such an example in which the hamming distance of codes is larger or equal to 3.

It is noted that the transmitter according to the above embodiment corresponds largely to the transmitter shown in fig. 4 except that the control word insertion stage 11 and the other means for various buffer operations (the processing shown in fig. 10) are not provided.

Instead, incoming data is processed directly and fed in parallel to the pilot insertion stages 3_1 – 3_n, such that the examination of PAPR values as explained with regard to the first embodiment of the transmitter can be carried out.

The delay stage 9 stores a predetermined number of payload data frames, each frame comprising the payload data that is to be transferred over the payload channels.

- 5 The delay is timed such that the choice of pilot configuration as indicated by PAPR measurement unit and pilot insertion unit 13 can be inserted on the actual frame on which the evaluation was performed. Hence, in stage 10 the chosen pilots are inserted.

It is noted that the transmitter is of a simpler construction than the first embodiment.

- 10 Moreover, the delay in the transmitter has been considerably reduced.

- Compared to the first embodiment of the transmitter, this method has a very low implementation cost. It is only necessary to process an extra IFFT for each code that is tested. For other methods, e.g. methods using re-scrambling, more processing is required. Moreover, all processing is performed on one OFDM symbol or frame at a time. There is no dependency between the OFDM symbols or frames and hence no need for synchronisation.
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Receiver - 2'nd embodiment

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- In fig. 6, a second embodiment of the receiver according to the invention has been shown. Apart from the elements described above, the receiver comprises a pilot extraction stage 23. The pilot extraction stage extracts the assumed pilot configuration from the output of the demodulator 18. Furthermore, the pilot extraction stage 23 performs error correction of the received pilot configuration. The error corrected pilot configuration is forwarded to the pilot reference generator 25 for transformation into BPSK symbols.
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Conclusion

- 30 In conclusion, it is noted that the present invention improves PAPR performance in for instance OFDM modulated transmission systems. The present invention can be readily used, in order to allow data transmission for fast moving vehicles. The method proposed here shows how to choose the pilots in order to minimise the PAPR with no extra penalty, such as decrease in data rate. Having regard to wireless local area networks such as IEEE 802.11a the invention is apt as a modification to the physical layer (PHY) of
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such existing wireless LAN protocols. The present invention requires no modifications to the MAC (Media Access Control layer) signalling of such protocols.

It should be noted that the present invention is not limited for application to wireless LAN
5 systems, but is applicable to systems in which a robust data transmission is desirable;
hence, systems of which scope are defined in the appended claims.